

We welcome as an important feature in Dr. Bartholow's work, the full treatment given to the question of electro-diagnosis. The remarkable qualitative changes classified by Erb under the general term "*Entartungsreaction*," or "reaction of degeneration," should, however, be more fully treated of. Their full comprehension is essential to both a rational treatment and a prognosis. Dr. Bartholow does not, however, neglect this branch of the subject entirely, but states sufficient to serve as an elementary working basis.

The book is conveniently divided into : Part I, on electro-physics ; II, on electro-physiology ; III, on electro-diagnosis ; IV, on electro-therapeutics ; V, on electricity in surgery ; and VI, on thermo-electricity. These subjects are treated of in 286 pages ; the type is good, the illustrations of average quality, and there is everywhere to be observed the characteristic book-making genius of the author.

We may safely say that there is to-day no book on this subject in the English language more trustworthy than this one. While not encyclopædic, it yet contains all that the general practitioner, or, indeed, the expert, will ever put into practice.

The medical profession was in want of just such a treatise, and the need is now adequately supplied.

W. J. M.

**Two hard cases.** By W. W. GODDING, M.D., Superintendent of the Government Asylum at Washington, D. C. Boston : Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., 1882.

The present volume is published for the very frankly avowed and original reason that the author "had observed, during the examination of the medical expert witnesses at the Guiteau trial, that one must be very low down in the scale not to have at least written a book or been elected an honorary member of some foreign medical society." This sly sarcasm at some of the government experts fittingly introduces a vein of sarcasm which runs through the whole book. The Two Hard Cases, who are the heroes of the volume, are a patient of the Taunton Asylum, and Guiteau. The first patient was admitted to the asylum in consequence of an attempted murder, the attempt being made through jealousy. The history of the case is clearly written, but, it must be confessed, somewhat meagre. The psychical manifestations of the patient almost wholly related to minor and major immoralities. The motives for these immoralities were never clear. Wild escapes from the asylum and as .

purposeless returns diversified his asylum life. He was at one time placed on a very extended parole, and kept it faithfully. Then it was broken suddenly, and without obvious cause. After a brief sojourn away from the asylum, he promised Dr. Godding to return, and did so. He kept his word, and hung himself the first night after his arrival. The patient was but eighteen, and the case, as far as the meagre history affords the grounds for opinion, was evidently one of the primary monomania of the Germans. It was marked by the erratic characteristics of these patients in early puberty. Dr. Godding's kindness of heart and great patience and forbearance are well illustrated in the history of the case.

The portion of the book devoted to Guiteau is written in a style which fascinates and enchains the reader in the perusal of what is a more than a twice-told tale. It is an open secret that Dr. Godding was the first alienist consulted with regard to Guiteau, and it was his scientific opinion that set District-Attorney Corkhill searching far and wide for medical assistance. The latter has stated that had Dr. Gray pronounced Guiteau insane, he would never have been brought to trial; but it is well known that no experts were selected by the government except such as would believe Guiteau sane under any and all circumstances. The encomiums passed by Dr. Godding on Judge Cox are judicious and, in the main, well deserved; yet even here the pleasant sarcasm of Dr. Godding creeps out. The statement made by this judge, early in the trial, that the would-be assassin of Jackson was gagged, and that Guiteau would be if he were not quiet, is scarcely consistent with his alleged knowledge of forensic medicine,—for the statement was demonstrably false about Lawrence. If his knowledge was so limited about the legal aspects of that Washington *cas célèbre*, his knowledge of its medical aspects must have been equally deficient. It is best, however, to discuss in detail the aspects of the trial as described by Dr. Godding. "To-day," says Dr. Godding, "the impartial trial by jury, that was wrested from the trembling hands of the English tyrant by the stern barons at Runnymede, stands between the humblest citizen and all wrong. Why? simply because it is impartial." No citizen who is clear-headed but, in ordinary matters where he is legally right, would prefer to have a judge pass on the question rather than an ignorant, prejudiced, and "impartial" jury; and in this age he who reads cannot be impartial, and he who does not read is not intelligent. To try any question of a scientific nature before an ordinary jury, results in absurdity,—and

this is especially the case in trials to determine insanity. Certain states have laws requiring such trials, and what is the result? An insane man is allowed to depart; his delusions are regarded as harmless eccentricities, and he, as in a recent case in Illinois, kills his wife and himself in consequence of these harmless eccentricities. In criminal matters, a jury system has acted still worse. In a trial in Philadelphia the insanity of the man was so evident that the district-attorney prosecuting was afraid that so dangerous a lunatic would be turned loose on the community by a disagreement, and so stated. The judge charged in accordance, but the jury was with difficulty induced to render a verdict of insanity. After the trial, it was found that only three of these impartial jurors had any doubts of the man's sanity, the rest being convinced that he was sane. There is no credit to the nation in the fact that it, like England, has executed a lunatic under its absurd legal forms. In his analysis of the testimony of the experts, he animadverts, and with justice, on a lapsus made by myself; a lapsus which was so regarded by a number of impartial persons.

Concerning Scoville's hypothetical case, he very appropriately says, this appeared to be too near a truism to carry much weight with the jury, and was a self-evident proposition, "although," he says, "I am aware that Drs. Worcester and Strong were staggered by it. And the distinguished leader of the government experts, Dr. Gray, after bringing all his erudition to bear on it, did not feel equal to answering the question, although the objection he urged to it might impress an unbiassed observer as hypercritical. It is a mistake to confound conceit of opinion with strength of mind, but some men are so constituted that they cannot help it." He, however, makes the error of confounding Dr. Beard's objection with those of Dr. Gray. Dr. Beard objected to the hypothetical case when he had examined the prisoner, and could answer with more certainty from the hypothetical case of the prosecution. As has been shown by Dr. Hammond (*JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE*, January, 1882), this was a good history of Guiteau's life, and upon it no honest expert could fail to pronounce Guiteau insane. Dr. Godding says, that Dr. Spitzka's evidence was in many respects correct, and that Guiteau's insanity was in part congenital. He cites from Dr. Gray's evidence the latter's absurd classification: "Mania, acute, subacute, paroxysmal and chronic melancholia of all grades, and dementia, epilepsy with mania or dementia, general paresis, delirium tremens, and imbecility, which embraced all possible manifestations of insanity." Also his de-

nial of the existence of moral insanity, culminating in the statement, that "no physical sickness could reflect itself through a man's moral nature only." He further cites Gray as denying that insanity as a disease was inherited, and other of the government experts as saying that *no* disease was inherited. He says, commenting on this, "I could not help asking myself wherein is this new enumeration of 'all the possible manifestations,' with its convenient eliminations, to be preferred to the old? It is Gray now, but it was Ray then; and I wondered, if that intellectual giant could come back from the shore where he has lately gone to sleep, if we should not hear some such vigorous language as this: 'You cannot get rid of a fact by denying its existence.' That is the difficulty with Dr. Gray's insanity. He simplifies our psychological studies wonderfully, but what are we to do with those 'minds diseased,' which his classification leaves out to shift for themselves. We must still keep the bounds of insanity essentially where they are, or, if we narrow them, with Dr. Gray, we must set up another kingdom in disease and call it unsoundness of mind." Dr. Godding says, that he dislikes to hear dipsomania used synonymously with drunkenness, but he has no doubt that insanity may manifest itself by dipsomania, or kleptomania only. He claims, in effect, that Dr. Gray begs the question. He further remarks about the absurd statements respecting heredity: "And now, after all these years of careful research, and our asylum reports rendered bulky with long tables, prepared with so much care, involving inquiry for the origin of the disease, not only in the direct line, but also in the collateral branches, just when the medical profession has accepted as a well-established fact the hereditary nature of insanity, we are met with the withering conundrum, 'Can a man inherit insanity from his uncle?' and are told that there is no such thing as hereditary insanity. Ah! how is it that science shows that syphilis, small-pox, and tubercle are born in the offspring; that the infant comes into the world with spina bifida, idiotic, hydrocephalic, acephalic; that the child is blind, mute, misshapen in the womb, but never insane. Because, forsooth, we have seen fit to limit insanity to disease of the brain, and the disease is not inherited! Is it possible that in all these years it has not been the doctor's lot, as it has been mine, to be consulted about those queer children of insane parentage who are perverse from the start. Will he say that the perverseness is only badness, which should be whipped out of the child. But that has generally been tried before the physician is consulted. Heterodox, I know it is,

but observed facts compel me to be heterodox with Prichard, Esquirol, Ray, Morel, Griesinger, and Maudsley, and I know not how many others, in recognizing a condition inherent, born in the individual, and not a result of education." In like manner and with equal courtesy does Dr. Godding lay bare the sophistries of Dr. Gray. He does not however allude to the fact that Dr. Gray was forced to admit that from his homicidal tables he had excluded all cases resembling Guiteau. Dr. Godding's indictment does not include this, but it is none the less effective and worthy the man who, with Ray and Wallace, protested against that vile personal attack, "True and False Experts," to the teeth of Gray and his sycophants. Despite some little pique exhibited against some experts for the defence, this book will do much good, written, as it is, for popular reading. It shows that the earlier American superintendents were fully abreast of any alienists, and that their views were in full accord with those of the best authorities at present. The Asylum Association has fallen into decadence through the supremacy of dilettante politicians of the meanest stamp. The book is issued in the "Little Classic" style of its publishers, and is worthy perusal, both from its style and its scientific interest.

J. G. K.

*Traité de la pellagre d' après des observations recueillies en Italie et en France, suivé d' une enquête dans les asiles d' alienés.* Par le Dr. E. BILLOD. Paris: Victor Masson et Fils, 1870.

Pellagra has attracted but little attention from American dermatologists and neurologists, chiefly because of the fact that both the disease and its best-established cause have been wanting in the United States. At present, however, there is a relatively large influx of Italians, and occasional cases may therefore appear to puzzle American alienists. What is pellagra? is a question that may be fairly asked at the outset of this review. According to Bouchard, who is approvingly quoted by Dr. Billod, "pellagra is a chronic constitutional affection with vernal exacerbations, characterized more particularly by very varied disorders of the digestive apparatus and cerebro-spinal axis, and leading, under the influence of insolation, to erythema, limited entirely to the parts affected by the solar rays."

As Dr. Billod himself expresses it: "Pellagra is an affection peculiarly characterized by erythema, coming on generally in the spring-time, produced by insolation, and limited entirely to the